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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/659,272	09/11/2003	Hiroshi Saito	249-316	5620
<div>23117 7590 06/25/2007</div> <div>NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC</div> <div>901 NORTH GLEBE ROAD, 11TH FLOOR</div> <div>ARLINGTON, VA 22203</div>				
			EXAMINER	
			PICKARD, ALISON K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3673	
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			06/25/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/659,272	Applicant(s) SAITO ET AL.	
	Examiner Alison K. Pickard	Art Unit 3673	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-11 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 7, 10, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Inoue.

Inoue discloses a gasket comprising a metal plate with a film. The film can comprise silica and at least two acids, which can be different (see col. 1:59-65 and col. 2-3:34, particularly col. 3:15, 16, 24, 28-29, and 32-33), and a metal. The second acid can be a fluorocomplex such as fluoro-titanic or fluoro-zirconate acid (see col. 2, lines 40-50). For example, column two discloses examples of the ionic metals that can be used (and more than one can be selected). If two sources are selected (e.g. a Ti source and a Zr source), one would be the “metal” and the other would be the “fluorocomplex” required by the claim. The second acid is disclosed in column 3, lines 15-33. These components would react when the mixture is heated (see col. 3, line 57-63) to form the film.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. Claims 1, 4-6, 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue in view of Teranishi (6,502,830).

Inoue discloses an organic coating such as a urethane. However, Inoue does not disclose the coating is one of the materials required by the claims. Teranishi teaches a gasket with a metal plate having a corrosion resistant coating and an organic coating. Teranishi teaches that rubbers and urethanes are art equivalent materials. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use silicone or rubber as the organic coating as such is an art equivalent. The limitation "bonded by vulcanization" is considered a process in a product claim and is given little patentable weight.

Regarding claims 4-6, it is not considered inventive to discover the workable or optimum ranges by routine experimentation absent the showing of criticality for such ranges. See *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the materials in the claimed amounts.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 3-1-07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The rejection with Inoue has been maintained and further clarified. Inoue clearly states a film is formed. It appears Applicant is arguing that a reaction will not take place because Inoue does not disclose a heating temperature high enough to cause the reaction. Attention is directed to Matsuzaki '962, which provides evidence that such components of such films will react at the ranges disclosed in Inoue (see paragraph 192 of Matsuzaki). Inoue also discloses the temperature

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is not restricted to this range (in col. 3). Matsuzaki (paragraph 318) also teaches a preferred drying method for these films that includes heating at higher temperatures. It is submitted that Inoue discloses all of the components required by the claims and that these components would react together when heated to form the film.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alison K. Pickard whose telephone number is 571-272-7062. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (10-7:30), with alternate Friday's off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tricia Engle can be reached on 571-272-6660. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AP

Alison K. Pickard
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3673

